

From: Mark Walsh
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 2:29pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

184 Riley Street

Dundee, MI 48131-1069

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Sir:

As I read more about the Microsoft settlement, I can't help but think that the government has more important issues to focus on. While there are intense international problems brewing daily, we spend more resources on litigation against the free market in America. Not only has Microsoft been extremely helpful in many areas, but they have also made a great deal of concessions in this recent agreement with the intent of moving forward.

Having grown up with a father that was blind, I have been particularly impressed by the work that Microsoft has done with the handicapped. Microsoft helped to enrich my father's life and always bent over backwards to provide assistance when needed. Without Microsoft's innovations my father would have never been able to use a computer. They provide help in so many areas and for so many causes, and people tend to miss hearing about these issues. Now that Microsoft has been under fire, they again have agreed to work with the IT sector in moving on and holding our place in the global market. They have agreed to make changes in licensing, marketing and even design. On top of this, they have agreed to be monitored by a committee the entire time. This is definitely a step toward a more unified IT sector. Please help Microsoft provide users with superior products by continuing to innovate in this highly competitive global market. Let us support this settlement and help our technology industry get back to business.

At stake is the USA's position as the number one technology innovator in the world. This is part of what makes America great, and why my father, whose blindness was caused by exposure during the Manhattan Project, appreciated the attention Microsoft gave to his needs.

My biggest fear is the needs of actual users have been subjugated to the wants of greedy competitors who rather spend money on litigation and lobbying than research & development.

Sincerely,

Mark Walsh